

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	15-204
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2016 Grandstand Tank Lid

Region and Game Management Unit: FOR2/Game Management Unit 13B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[X] **NO**[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Livestock/Wildlife Water Catchment Development Project

Brief Project Summary: This effort involves installing metal r-panel roofing over the storage tank to reduce or eliminate evaporation, and to reduce drowning hazards to animals on a 21,000 storage tank that is found on the Grandstand in GMU 13B. It has already been documented that evaporative barriers on storage tanks significantly reduce water loss, and greatly improve the value of the project to wildlife. There is currently a wildlife drinker in a fence in area that is always on for wildlife.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) :

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

April 1, 2016

Project End Date:

April 1, 2017

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: EA-83-361 (Jan 1, 1985)

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
(Provide Attachment)

Yes[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: 3-12-1985

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: BLM Maintenance

Projected Completion Date:

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 9,000.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

Refinished apron by rancher (March, 2014)

\$ 2,000.00

BLM NEPA Clearance and Archeological Clearance

\$ 1,000.00

Total Project Costs:

\$ 12,000.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION		
Applicant (please print): Tim Shurtliff	Address: 3500 S. lake Mary Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001	E-mail: TShurtliff@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 928-358-3843		Date: August 25, 2015
AGFD Contact and Phone No. Coordinate with AZGFD and Livestock Permittee Bill Gubler (435)-632-2904		
Project has been coordinated with: Joseph Currie/Ed Jahrke – Development Branch Arizona Strip BLM		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

In the past 10 years on the AZ strip (GMU 13A/B), an effort was initiated to replace worn out components of cooperative wildlife/livestock waters. Several of those waters and catchments have been improved with tank lids throughout the AZ strip and this proposal is a continuation of that effort on the Grandstand found within GMU 13B.

Water collection, water quality, and safety to animals are issues that have been noted on many of these projects across the Arizona Strip. Most of these facilities have open top storage tanks approaching 80,000 gallons. In the summer, evaporative loss often approaches 40% or 30,000 gallons of the storage capabilities of the tanks.

This is the only water that is found on the Grandstand in GMU 13B, both for cattle and wildlife. Concerns over Pronghorn fawning and the ability of Pronghorn to have available water during fawning have been documented as potential limiting factors to the growth of the Strip populations. There are similar concerns over the mule deer population. A catchment that has limited collection ability and high evaporation in the storage tank is of limited value to these animals.



Grandstand catchment with wildlife Drinker

This effort involves installing metal r-panel roofing over the storage tanks to reduce or eliminate evaporation, and to reduce drowning hazards to animals. It has already been documented that evaporative barriers on storage tanks significantly reduce water loss, and greatly improve the value of the project to wildlife.

The tank lids also provide safety to big game and other animals that may fall into the tanks. Many of these tanks are at or near ground level, and there have been instances where big game and other animals have drowned in these catchments. A photo is attached documenting this fact. A comment from the Arizona Strip BLM range staff sums up the benefit of these tank lids as:

“...it would be improving upon the project by eliminating the ability of animals and humans for that matter from gaining access to the tank and drowning and polluting the water. It would further serve to reduce evaporation and help ensure an adequate water supply for wildlife during periods of drought that are common in our area.” – Robert Sandberg , 2007.



Dead Animals Removed from storage tank Twist Hills 2007: From Left to Right – Mule Deer Buck, Hind quarter of antelope, coyote, coyote, jackrabbit.

Below are some before and after photos of work that already was completed with the previous efforts:



Higley Tank Before



Higley Tank Lid After



Diamond Butte Tank Lid



Pocum Tank Lid

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

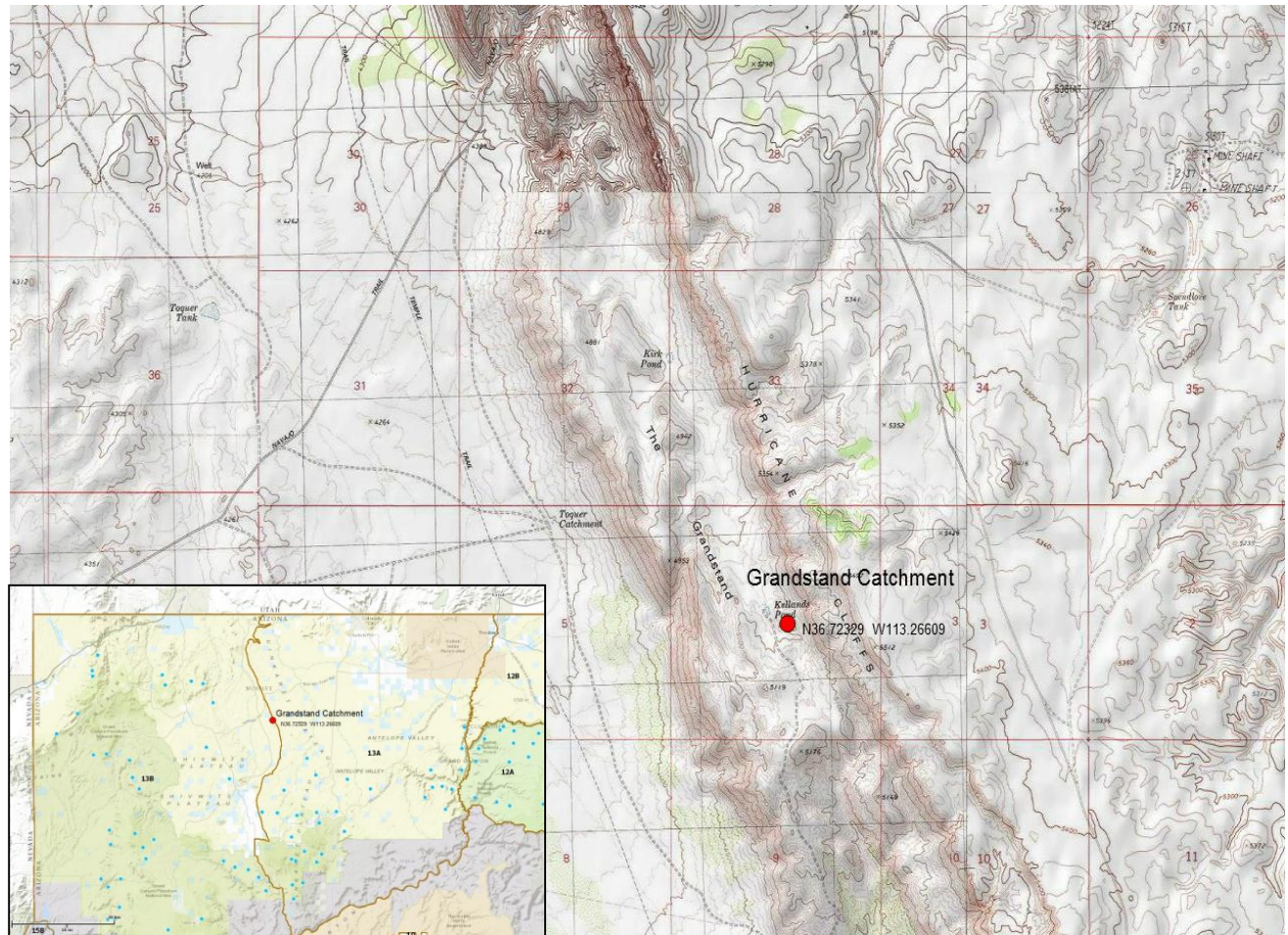
- Improve available water distribution for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and other wildlife near and around the Grandstand in GMU 13B.
- Improve water quality
- Conserve water from evaporation found within the holding tank.
- Develop cooperative agreements between BLM, Permittee, and AZGFD to ensure projects continue to meet wildlife and livestock needs into the future
- Improve safety of the facilities by eliminating drowning danger of big game and other wildlife species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

1. Install metal r-panel type evaporative covers over the storage tank of the Grandstand livestock/wildlife catchment. A steel beam design nearly identical to the previous efforts will be used as structural support for the roofs. After beams are installed an apron is fastened to the top of the beams eliminating a large amount of evaporation. This labor will be done by a contractor.

PROJECT LOCATION

Grandstand Water Catchment Lid: N36.72329 W113.26609



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

100% Federal managed by the Arizona Strip District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM land)

The Grandstand Water catchment is surrounded by BLM and access to the catchment is uncontested.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Habitat consists of a great-plains grassland giving way to a sagebrush-steppe community and finally sparse pinyon-juniper woodland. Common grass species include galleta grass, dropseed, and Indian

Rice grass. Forb species that are common are winterfat, globe mallow, and several species of buckwheat. Shrub species include big sage, cliffrose, and ephedra. Tree species include Utah Juniper, and Pinyon Pine. The elevation of the Grandstand catchment is approximately 5,000 feet ASL.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET 2016 Grandstand Water Catchment Tank Lid

Costs Category-Equipment, Labor, Administrative, Material	Grant Dollars Requested – Special Tag	Cost Share Dollars – Rancher and Arizona Strip BLM
500 sq. ft r-panel roofing material with steel beam support	\$4,500.00	
Contract Labor for Installation of Tank Lids	\$4,500.00	
Refinished apron (Permittee)		\$2,000.00
BLM NEPA Clearance and Archeological Clearance		\$1,000.00
Totals	\$9,000.00	\$3,000.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Deer Association: Provide project funding for the labor of installation of tank lid

Arizona Antelope Foundation: Provide project funding for the labor of installation of tank lid

AZGFD: Provide Funding for the labor of installation of tank lid

BLM: NEPA Clearance and Archeological Clearance

Permittee: Refinish Apron

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[X] NO[] N/A[]

History has shown that during travel management planning of the land management agencies, roads that have historic use and provide access to wildlife facilities receive priority in remaining

open to the public.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department will monitor the completion of this project, and ensure that water is available for wildlife year round. Photographs of the completed project will be taken and submitted to the game branch. The department will also monitor pronghorn antelope and mule deer use of the area, and complete population surveys in the area to provide population indexes.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The Wildlife Manager, livestock permittee, and BLM staff will maintain this project at least semi-annually as needed.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Tim Shurtliff – Wildlife Manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

Coordination with Development Branch was conducted and it was determined that the water development worksheet would not need to be completed as this project is a BLM project and the AZGFD will not be completing the work. The AZGFD is a partner in this project and all funding will be utilized by the BLM to complete these projects on the ground.